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REMARKS

Claims 1-26 are pending in the application. Claims 1, 14, and 20 have been amended to overcome the rejections under 35 USC 112, second paragraph, and to recite that the apparatus management information includes apparatus-specific information of the electronic apparatus. Claim 20 has been further amended to recite that the terminal-side controlling means performs various functions "based on the application software stored in the application means" (see, e.g., specification at page 18, last paragraph to page 19, first paragraph). New claims 21-26 have been added by the present amendment (see, e.g., specification at page 12, third paragraph; and page 21, last paragraph to page 23, first paragraph). The amendments are fully supported by the application as originally filed.

In the Office Action of 09/14/2005, claims 14 and 20 were rejected under 35 USC 112, second paragraph, "as being incomplete for omitting essential elements" (Office Action, page 2).

As amended, claims 1, 14 and 20 recite a method for managing at least one electronic apparatus (claim 1), an electronic apparatus for communicating with at least one portable terminal (claim 14), and a system including at least one electronic apparatus and at least one portable terminal (claim 20). As described in the specification, the electronic apparatus can be a digital image processing multifunction apparatus, e.g., functioning as a copying machine, printer, and facsimile machine (see page 12, third paragraph). The at least one electronic apparatus is configured for use with at least one portable terminal, such as the portable terminals 1, 2, and 3 (see page 12, last paragraph to page 13, first paragraph; and FIGS. 1-2). It is believed that claims 14 and 20, as amended, overcome the rejections under 35 USC 112, second paragraph.

As amended, independent claims 1, 14, and 20 recite an electronic apparatus and method in which apparatus management information that includes apparatus-specific information of the associated electronic apparatus is provided to a portable terminal upon demand.

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Referring to FIG. 1 of the application, the Applicants' invention includes at least one digital image processing multifunction apparatus A, B (such as electronic apparatus 30), and a portable terminal (1, 2, 3) capable of communicating with the electronic apparatus 30. Information from the multifunction apparatus can be supplied to a management center C via the portable terminal (1, 2, 3) through a communication path such as email (see FIG. 2).

Referring to FIG. 3 of the application, apparatus-specific information of an electronic apparatus 30 (i.e., multifunction apparatus A, B in FIG. 1) is stored in an information management table 10, where this table lists information such as trouble history, counter information, level information of consumable goods, and system information of the electronic apparatus. In other words, the electronic apparatus 30 regularly performs maintenance of itself, and gathers relevant apparatus-specific information which is stored and provided to a portable terminal on demand.

Applicants' claimed invention can provide significant benefits. According to the Applicants' claimed invention, apparatus management information can be easily and efficiently collected from an electronic apparatus not linked to a network environment by utilizing one or more portable terminals.

Claims 1-20 were rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent 5,950,148 to Nakagawa et al. ("Nakagawa"), which is owned by the assignee of the subject application. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Nakagawa does not teach or suggest a method for managing at least one electronic apparatus, or an electronic apparatus in which apparatus management information that includes apparatus-specific information of the associated electronic apparatus is provided to a portable terminal upon demand.

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Nakagawa relates to a maintenance system of a copying machine, in which a portable terminal device 30 displays maintenance data of the copying machine 1, and a host computer 40 of a management center is connected to the copying machine 1 (see column 10, lines 5-38). The portable terminal device 30 and the host computer 40 exchange maintenance data via the copying machine 1 (see, e.g., FIGS. 3 and 4; column 10, lines 35-38).

In the Office Action of 09/14/2005, the host computer 40 was cited as allegedly corresponding to Applicants' claimed "electronic apparatus" (see page 3, last paragraph of Office Action).

However, there is no teaching or suggestion that the host computer 40 of Nakagawa provides "apparatus-specific information of the associated electronic apparatus."

Instead, in Nakagawa, the host computer 40 stores data about the proficiency (level of skill) of each operator by ID code, and reads out guidance data based on the operator's proficiency (see FIG. 11; column 14, lines 10-45).

In other words, the information transmitted from the host computer 40 to the copying machine 1 is maintenance data common to various types of copying machines, not specific data of the host computer 40 or the copying machine 1. Therefore, Nakigawa does not teach or suggest an electronic apparatus or method in which apparatus-specific information is provided to a portable terminal on demand.

Referring to new claims 22, 24, and 26, in Nakigawa, an operator ID code must be entered into the portable terminal device 30 before guidance information is received. In contrast, new claims 22, 24, and 26 recite that apparatus management information is supplied to the portable terminal without input by a user, i.e., without the user being required to enter an ID code or the like.

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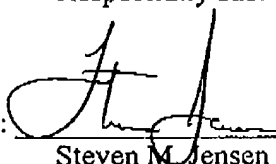
For at least the reasons discussed above, the Nakagawa reference does not anticipate or otherwise render obvious the Applicants' claimed invention.

It is believed that the claims are in condition for immediate allowance, which action is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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